

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview granted January 29. During the interview, the arguments presented in Amendment D were explained and reviewed. The Examiner indicated that he may cite a new reference or references after further searching in lieu of the present combination of art set forth in the September 30, 2003 Office Action.

To emphasize in claims 29 and 36 that the inventive method and apparatus involves allowing substantial remaining pump light to escape from the pump fiber to reduce pump light from being emitted with the laser light at the laser light exit, this feature has been transposed to the beginning of the last claim element in each of claims 29 and 36. Since the language of the last element of each of claims 29 and 36 has merely been transposed, this is not a narrowing claim amendment.

Applicant incorporates all the same arguments set forth in Amendment D.

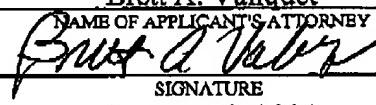
Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg.#27,841)

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify this correspondence is being transmitted to Examiner Flores by facsimile on January 29, 2004 by transmittal to telefax no. (571) 273 1940 .



Brett A. Valiquet
NAME OF APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY

SIGNATURE

January 29, 2004
DATE